GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:442
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Railway Stations run by Local People
Hemamalini Smt.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that many railway stations in the country are being run by local people instead of railway employees and if so, the details thereof along with the number of such stations;

(b) whether it is beneficial for the Government to let local people run the stations and if so, the details of such benefits and if not, the reasons for not running the stations by the Railways;

(c) whether there is any permanent policy in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government intends to formulate such a policy and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 442 BY SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2017 REGARDING RAILWAY STATIONS RUN BY LOCAL PEOPLE

(a): At small way side stations categorized as F category stations and called as Halt stations, selling of tickets is normally carried out by halt agents appointed by Railways. However, even at halt stations this work is carried out through railway staff (commercial clerk/guard) when the halt contractor leaves the halt or contract is terminated before completion of agreement period or where no suitable contractor could be appointed. As per the extant policy guidelines, the halt agent should be a permanent resident of the place where the halt station is opened.
The zone-wise details of halt stations over Indian Railways are as under:

Zonal Railway Halt Stations
Central Railway 62
Eastern Railway 156
East Central Railway 289
East Coast Railway 56
Northern Railway 246
North Central Railway 88
North Eastern Railway 143
Northeast Frontier Railway 113
North Western Railway 135
Southern Railway 153
South Central Railway 156
South Eastern Railway 104
South East Central Railway 116
South Western Railway 95
Western Railway 221
West Central Railway 37
Total 2170

At such stations where there are only one or two stopping trains during the day, Ministry of Railways is considering utilizing the space capacity for organizing local functions and for skill development activities involving local people.

(b): In view of meagre earnings and low volume of passenger traffic at such stations, posting of railway staff for sale of tickets and creating full fledged railway infrastructure like station buildings/ staff quarters etc. at such stations would be unremunerative. Therefore, to minimise cost of operating such halt stations, Railways appoint contractual agents who are paid commission based on the ticket

sales turnover at the station.

(c): Yes, Madam. Policy guidelines exist for appointment of halt contractors. As per extant guidelines, the halt contractor should be a permanent resident of the place where the halt station is situated. The limited purpose of selling tickets is fulfilled by appointing a local resident as halt agent by being available at the station during the train timings. Usually only a few pairs of trains are provided stoppage at halt stations throughout the day.

(d): Does not arise.

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